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of the former (pp. 132-141, and plates v and vi) and 85 of the latter (pp. 142-176, plates vii-x), and forms a substantial addition to our knowledge of the Herpetology of the Malay Peninsula. Two species and one sub-species of frogs, two tortoises, a lizard, and a snake are described as new, whilst three additional species of lizards and one snake are here for the first time recorded from the region. Five species of frogs, two of tortoises, and three of lizards are figured in the six plates accompanying the report. There are also a few text figures. The collectors' valuable field notes constitute the greater part of the text. In an Appendix, Dr. Boulenger gives a "List of the Batrachians and Reptiles Recorded from the Malay Peninsula, South of Tenasserim." The list numbers 60 species of Batrachians, of which 16 have been added since the publication of Captain S. S. Flower's list in 1899; and 178 species of Reptiles, of which 30 species have been added since 1899, or during the last four years preceding the publication of the present report. The several orders are represented as follows: Chelonia, 23; Emydosauria, 3; Lacertilia, 71; Ophidia, 81.

J. A. A.

**Fasciculi Malayenses (Anthropology: Part I, 1903; Part II, 1904).** Published for the University Press of Liverpool (*as above*).

The two parts of this work are composed of a series of single contributions to the ethnology of the Malayan Peninsula, chiefly descriptive in character. The bulk of the first volume is taken up with data on physical anthropology. It deals further with the primitive beliefs and customs of the Patani fishermen, and with religion and magic among the Malays of the Patani States, the latter subject being continued in the second part. In this part Henry Balfour gives a report on a collection of musical instruments from the Siamese Malay States and Perak; besides this, some customs of the Malay-Siamese, and skeletons of the same people, are there discussed. A supplement gives a description of the itinerary of the expedition, which is accompanied by a map. In the first article of the first volume are contained a number of very interesting illustrations of decorative patterns, some with brief explanations of the ornaments and with occasional references to them in the text. It would certainly be very desirable if a special investigation of this promising subject could be carried on by the authors.

B. L.

**Militärgeographie der Schweiz, nebst kurzen Schilderung der Entstehung der Neutralität Savoyens und historischen Notizen über verschiedene Alpenpässe bearbeitet von Major Frölich.** Pp. II-120. Aarau, H. R. Sauerländer & Co. 1906.

Written specially for the use of Swiss officers and subaltern officers.—In the Preface the author makes the somewhat surprising statement that instruction in "home geography" is very deficient in Swiss military circles, owing to the short time allotted to officers for the purpose. There is perhaps no country in the world where national geography is so extensively and so efficiently taught as in Switzerland, where the public school pupils, male and female, are introduced to cartography at such an early age. If, however, one looks through the pages of this pamphlet (it is hardly a book, and it may be called a booklet for size and bulk), he understands the multitude and the intricacy of the problems which the military position of Switzerland presents to its eventual defenders, and justifies to some extent the complaint of the author.

Switzerland has, since its consolidation in 1847 and even before, made the detailed knowledge of its soil, from every point of view, accessible to outsiders in the

most liberal manner. Conscious of its weakness in numbers, it has withheld no so-called military secrets of a geographical nature. It knows perfectly well that in case of war with any of its neighbours it will always be at a great disadvantage in certain ways. Hence there is among the Swiss hardly any boasting, and no attempt at untimely provocation. Major Froelich tends to confirm that attitude through the minute data he gives regarding the defensibility of frontiers. He shows that an offensive from the side of Italy would enjoy superior facilities of concentration and convergence, or at least parallel advances, even into the Alpine barrier, and that on the Swiss side there are difficulties in the way of rapid movements of troops in considerable numbers. Worse yet are the conditions on the western frontier in case of French aggression. France has the open country with its numerous converging railroad lines; Switzerland has, practically, only lines that run *parallel* to its boundaries. The Jura is no barrier; on the contrary, from the French side it is an inclined plane, facilitating invasion. On the north, Major Froelich finds a better situation. It is true that approaches from southern Germany are through a rugged country, and that rapid concentration on that front from the German side is not so easy as, for instance, on the plains of Lombardy, which abut immediately against the southern Alps. Still we cannot fully share the optimism of the author on the defensibility of the northern frontier. The German Empire remains, from a military point of view, the most dangerous neighbour. Its perfect organization, its immediate proximity on a long line interrupted by salients from the Swiss side, which must be defended, and would constitute, therefore, an incumbrance in a struggle with an overwhelming adversary—all these features counterbalance the advantages which "military" geography may present on that frontier.

Aside from highly-important allusions to a defensive warfare carried on by the Swiss on the enemy's soil—a measure which General Dufour had already prepared for in 1856 against a (then imminent) Prussian aggression—Major Froelich turns to consider the gloomy picture of a defence of Switzerland to the "last ditch." He indicates the successive interior lines of defence, and in this he commits no indiscretion. Military authorities of adjoining nations are familiar with them, and there is nothing to conceal. When he reaches the "last ditch" it is with the final query, "Shall we, then, lose heart?" To this no reply can be given in words.

We consider the booklet of Major Froelich a timely and well-inspired one. It gives warning to a small nation, thoroughly organized for defence, of dangers that might be overlooked at the wrong time. An interesting notice of the early history of Alpine passes closes this sober, modest, and geographically valuable publication.

A. F. B.

**La Colonisation de la Nouvelle France. Étude sur les Origines de la Nation Canadienne Française. Par Emile Salone.** xii+468 pp. Paris, E. Guilmoto (1905). (Price 7.50 fr.)

With a not very complete knowledge of all the sources available for the history of Canada under French rule, or, at least, utterly ignoring some of them, like the works of Francis Parkman, for instance, Professor Salone of the Lycée Condorcet has still written an attractive and valuable book. Coming from a specifically French source, it has a specific colour that carries with it undeniable merit. The charges of brutality and cruelty against the English in their final conquest of New France may be somewhat exaggerated, especially as towards Wolfe. War, in his time, was much more pitiless than it has since become, and due allowance should always be made for the changes wrought by progress in methods of mitigation and relief.

The history of French Canada has been written so often and by such competent